





**Santa Clara Valley
Water District**



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Beyond 2000: Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection

The water district's flood protection and stream stewardship programs emphasize working with rivers and floods rather than against them. Our programs help reduce property damage, reduce disruption to business and ensure that people can travel to jobs and schools during even the wettest winters. We also improve water quality, create healthy ecosystems, ensure cost-effective investments of taxpayer dollars and preserve the quality of life in the Santa Clara Valley.

As with any public service, the cost of the water district's efforts is borne by the community. Funds are collected from a variety of sources, including local property taxes and benefit assessments. We have also worked diligently to maximize other funding sources. In the past 20 years more than \$200 million in federal and state funding has been allotted to projects in our county—funds that would not have become available without a local share. The benefit assessments sunset in June 2000, per the voter-approved ballot measures which authorized their collection in 1986 and 1990.

In anticipation of this June 2000 benefit assessment expiration, we carefully analyzed all possible replacement funding sources, budget cuts and strategic fund commitments. We also invited public participation in developing future programs and identifying funding sources. We met with policymakers and community and business leaders throughout the valley and conducted public surveys and workshops.

The result is a proposal for a comprehensive flood protection and stream stewardship program that reflects community input—funded by several sources. The full program will emphasize a balanced approach based on sound environmental principles, stress careful fiscal management and strive to provide benefits in every community.

However, there is a revenue shortfall of 39 percent of the total funds needed to provide this program—nearly \$25 million annually. The \$25 million revenue shortfall equates to approximately \$39 per household per year. This revenue shortfall could be recouped through fees and special charges, or by asking county voters to approve a special parcel tax.

We will continue to work with our partners in the community to successfully implement the *Beyond 2000 Flood Protection and Stream Stewardship* program. Together, we can preserve the valley's quality of life.

Funding Sources for:

